20: Bush--76-77 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 142

[LSS: Upon arrival at Tederovsk on Lake Kidzi]"By this time all of us were perfectly wet and tired out, so much so that even the hovel was a welcome sight, and we had just resolved to take informal possession, when a small, box-like boat, containing two men, was seen approaching from the distance, while two other beings approached along the water's edge. These last were evidently natives of the country, and, from their appearance, were objects of a good deal of interest and curiousity to us, though by no means preposessing in their looks, or calculated to inspire one with admiration. How to classify them we did not know, except as under the general head of tartars. [77]

From small patches of skin that were in a few places visible through the dirt in which they were clothed, we judged their complexion to be midway between those of the Chinese and the American Indians. There features were decidedly Mongolian--almond-shaped eyes, flattish noses, and coarse black hair; but most prominent of all were their cheek-bones, which were exceedingly large, so much so as to completely obscure the rest of the face in profile view."

20: Bush--77 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak

116, 276, 291, 302, 515

"They [LSS: A Gilyak man and woman] were a filthy-looking pair, clad in dirty, greasy skin garments, with naked feet and legs, and their long, coarse, uncombed hair, that had once been braided, hung down their backs in queues. That of the man (for both sexes were represented) was arranged much like the 'tail' of a Chinaman, in a single braid, with the exception that no part of his head was shaven. The woman wore two braids, or what had once been such, since her hair, as well as that of her husband, was a perfect mass of tangle, and becoming more so every moment through the energetic clawing and digging of several long, unwashed fingers.

We would have experienced some little difficulty in deciding which was the man and which the woman had it not been for a long-stemmed pipe, with amber mouth-piece and miniature brass bowl, which the former smoked, while his fair partner carried a number of fine, large, freshly-caught fish."

20: Bush--77 [2] T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 161,174

"The pair [LSS: A Gilyak man and woman] were members of a tribe numbering about 8000 souls, called Gilaks, a branch of the Tungusians--so stated, though,as we afterward found, a very different people from the Tungusians whome we encountered in our journeys. The Gilaks were the original inhabitants of the country of the Lower Amoor at the time of the first visit of whites to that section, and for an unknown period previously."

20: Bush--77-78 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 352

"Having turned our horses over to the soldiers, who fastened them beneath a small straw-thatched shelter close by, followed by the Gilaks and several chickens, we found our [78] way into a smoke-blackened apartment, lighted by a piece of fish-skin set in a small aperture in the log-walls. A large brick 'peachka' covered three fourths of the dirt floor of the room, upon the top of which was stored away a good supply of dried fish and wood drying for fuel. In two of the corners were narrow bunks covered with rags, very repulsive in appearance, and in another corner was a small rude table and a couple of stools."

20: Bush--78 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 515

"As soon as she entered the apartment, the Gilak woman, out of deference to us, though in a very immodest manner, posted herself upon one of the beds, and began to attire herself a little more decently, neglecting, however, either to wash herself or comb her hair; but, poor thing, even what slight alterations she made in her appearance was a very difficult proceeding, since either one hand or the other was constantly employed answering the summons of innumerable creatures, which, though invisible, were, to all appearances, by no means unfelt."

20: Bush--86 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 778, 823

"During this portion of our journey on the lake, [LSS: Lake Kidzi] which is about twenty-five miles in length, we passed a small rocky island called Boshniak, which is held sacred by the Gilaks. To this place the 'shamans' or 'medicine-men' of the tribe periodically resort for the purpose of carrying on their pagan rites, which in many respects resemble the ceremonies of our American Indians."

20: Bush--89-90 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 226, 251, 262

"The river [LSS: the Amur] at this point is nearly a mile in width, and flows through extensive plains of meadow-land burdened with a rank growth of tall grass, beyond which on either hand, in the distance, faint blue hills limit the vision. Patches of woodland dot the plains, and, in many places, extend to the river-bank, where, beneath the thick clusters of foliage, the tasty though filthy Gilaks erect their picturesque habitations near the sandy beach. One of these we came upon shortly after leaving Marinsk. In front of each house, upon the beach, were drawn up their odd-shaped canoes, with elevated, fancifully-carved prows, and all along the shores we could see the bare-legged natives toiling at their long seines, and strewing the banks with hundreds of fine salmon, that glittered in the sunlight like heaps of silver. These fish are afterward split, and suspended on light poles under bark or straw-covered shelters to dry, where they remain until required for use, they being here, as in Kamtchatka, intended for the sustenance of both men and dogs during the long winter months. Fish and berries, with the bark and roots of various trees, constitute almost the only food of the inhabitants, and, though many of the more hardy vegetables could be had at the expense of a little toil, they content themselves with the food that nature showers upon them.

The river at certain seasons of the year is literally alive with salmon, and so little effort is required to capture them [90] that they are considered almost valueless. Fish that would adorn banquets in many places are here thrown to the dogs by hundreds."

20: Bush--90 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 462, 501

"Now and then we encountered 'lotkas,' or canoes, gliding from shore to shore, almost invariably propelled by the women, who handled the short carved paddles with a skill and grace really to be admired. They use the paddles much as we do oars, but make the strokes alternately, allowing one to trail along the side of the craft while the stroke is being made with the other. The men display equally as great skill in the management of the boat, though their duty is comparatively light, being simply to sit in the stern of the craft and guide it with a light paddle, in the mean while smoking their long-stemmed pipes with small brass bowls and enormous amber mouth-pieces."

20: Bush--99 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 531

[LSS: Traveling on the Amur] "The scenery was much the same as that of the day before--the banks dotted with small Russian and Gilak settlements. I could not help admiring the taste displayed by many of these Gilaks whom we passed in the manufacture of their hats. They are made of birch-bark, shaped like a low, broad cone, the outside covered with beautiful scroll-work figures cut from stained bark."

20: Bush--101-102 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 554, 778, 797

"The Gilaks are a very superstitious, pagan people, worshiping idols of wood and stone as of old, though many of them have been baptized into the Greek Church, and wear small [102] metal crosses suspended about their necks. They have their priests, or 'shamans,' who conduct all their ceremonies and are the advisers of the communities. These shamans are supposed by them to be gifted with supernatural powers, and are held in great awe and reverence."

20: Bush--102 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 764, 775, 825

"Their funeral rites are sometimes quite impressive. The remains are first burned, and afterward a small wooden house or tomb is erected over the ashes. At death the soul is supposed to take up its abode in the favorite dog of the deceased, where it remains until released from its confinement by the death of the animal. To facilitate its escape, it has become customary to sacrifice the dog at the tomb of its master, the creature being first fattened for the occasion."

20: Bush--102 [2] T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 372

"Among other superstitious notions, the Gilaks will not allow a particle of fire to be taken from their habitations, not even in a pipe. A violation of this custom they firmly believe will be the occasion of some great disaster--either a complete failure in fishing or in the chase, or the death or serious accident to some near relative or dear friend."

20: Bush--102 [3] T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 844

"During parturition, whether in winter or summer, the unfortunate mother is ejected from her habitation--thrust out of doors, exposed to the inclemency of the weather, there to provide for herself as best she may, solitary and ignored, until a certain period shall have elapsed. During this time every possible assistance is denied her, it being considered almost criminal to lend her the slightest attention, and, as a natural consequence, death often ensues. Their dogs are much more tenderly cared for, they, at least, being allowed shelter."

20: Bush--102 [4] T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 627, 682

"Murder is not an uncommon occurrence among these people, being often committed upon the slightest provocation. They are governed by no established laws except those dictated by superstition, which differ in different localities. A murderer is usually punished by the friends of the deceased, who are bound in some manner to avenge his death, generally by counter-murder. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is their notion of justice."

20: Bush--102-103 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 177, 342, 411

"Formerly bows and spears were their only weapons, but of late these, the bow especially, have been discarded for [103] small-bored flint-lock guns, which they procure in trade from the Russians. Their habitations differ somewhat in their construction. Many of them are erected on posts several feet above the ground, and are surrounded by a platform, upon which they stow away their sleds, nets, weapons, etc. These platforms are reached by rude steps cut in a log."

20: Bush--103 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 251, 354

"Many of their houses are heated by a fire in the centre of the room, the bunks for sleeping ranged around the sides, and a square hole in the roof for the smoke to escape through, while others have the fire in a kind of oven in one corner, the smoke and heat being conducted entirely around the room, under the bunks, before escaping from the chimney. This is in order to heat their beds during the winter. Suspended to the rafters overhead they frequently have hundreds of salmon curing in the dense smoke. This is called 'ukale' by the Russians, and, when carefully prepared--'and you know the woman as made 'em,' as Sam Weller said of veal pies--are quite palatable."

20: Bush--103 [2] T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 789

"Our attention was attracted by a curious noise from some settlement far up the river, sounding like the beating of a bass-drum. This, upon inquiry, we learned to be a party of Gilaks invoking the spirits to attend them and crown their efforts in fishing with success."

20: Bush--104-105 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 291, 516

"At 6 o'clock we went ashore near a Gilak settlement to make tea, and were soon surrounded by a group similar to the one of the night before. They wandered barefooted over the jagged stones on the beach as though their feet were soled with iron, while the cold seemed to have no effect on them whatever. Some of them presented a very amusing tableau as we pushed from shore. Near our fire was an old [105] stump of driftwood about six feet long, on which six of them sat, with their feet drawn up under their bodies, their heads resting on their hands, and their elbows on their knees. In the group was an old gray-headed man, the patriarch of the village; and from him down, in both sexes, to a little boy hardly old enough to walk, who, however, imitated the attitude of the others with the greatest precision. I would not have believed it possible to roost so many humans on a log of that size, had I not seen it done."

20: Bush--122-123 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 252, 272, 342

"Our tent, being new and of very thin material, leaked badly--so much so that we could keep nearly as dry, and certainly much warmer, walking outside. We tried a small fire within, but in a few moments the smoke became unbearable, and for want of better refuge Swartz and myself fled to our Gilak neighbors. Their only shelter consisted of birch-bark, sewed together in long narrow strips about two feet in length, and spread over a frame of light poles sloping to the ground and forming a shed-like covering, open in front and at each end. This was erected upon the beach, facing the high wooded bank, which served as a protection from the wind.

As we came up, one of the women was in the act of preparing the noonday meal over a small fire in front of the camp. A small pot contained several fine trout, near which was hanging a good-sized copper tea-kettle (a rare article among the Gilaks, who are, as a general thing, unable to indulge in tea). On this occasion we furnished them, in exchange for fish. [123]

Beneath the shed several deer-skins were spread over a thick layer of green boughs, upon which half a dozen humans and about as many dogs lay twisted and coiled into almost every conceivable shape. The group presented a curious, if not interesting tableau, which I will endeavor to portray in a few words, as it conveyed to us a very complete idea of the internal workings of a Gilak domicil, as well as some of their occupations."

20: Bush--123 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 854

"At or near one end of the shed was a babe, tightly bandaged in a wooden box or cradle, something like those used by our American Indians, but with its little legs from the knees downward unfettered. This cradle was suspended from the ridge-pole, in an upright position, by four leather thongs, which were just long enough to enable the little one to reach the ground with its feet, by which it swung itself back and forth without assistance."

20: Bush--123-124 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 231, 515

"Near by, sitting cross-legged, Turkish-fashion, upon the skins, two frowsy-headed, haggard-looking women were sewing very industriously upon filthy skin garments, only pausing now and then to give some directions to the cook, and to launch something--what I don't know, but it sounded very harsh--upon the heads of a couple of naked little urchins, [124] who were disputing the possession of a deer-skin bed with an old, half-famished, toothless dog. The latter appeared to be conscious of his rights, however, and obstinately refused to budge beneath the feeble blows of his tormentors. Other dogs were in abundance, but the crowning feature of all was an old hag (no other word will express it), wrinkled, withered, and toothless, and clothed in the dirtiest of dirty skins, with long, scant locks of hair dangling wildly about her face. She would have been a pitiable object had it not been for her occupation--that of catching vermin from the head of a dirty-faced girl, and disposing of them in a manner not very conducive to one's appetite. "

20: Bush--124 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 778, 782

"Upon leaving the Gilak encampment, we climbed the bank just in front of it, to the woods above, when we found ourselves upon a spot held sacred by the Gilaks. Upon all sides, scattered through the woods, were skulls of bears, poised upon the stumps of small trees from four to six feet above the ground. These were intended as some kind of offering to the native gods, and, when newly placed in position (we afterward learned), were sprinkled with tobacco, berries, roots, and other articles. None of these offerings appeared to be of more recent date than two years, while some were so old as to crumble beneath the touch, and others were buried in such a profusion of moss as to be hardly recognizable. After being once placed, it is deemed very sacrilegious ever to disturb them again. Time and the elements, according to Gilak notions, can alone tamper with them with impunity."

20: Bush--125 T-2 (1865) 1871 Gilyak
116, 142, 221, 461

"These people might with propriety be called an aquatic tribe. During the summer months they almost live upon the water, paddling here and there in their lotkas continually. For their food, likewise, both during summer and winter, they rely upon this source nearly exclusively. What traveling they do in winter is accomplished with dogs; but this is very little, their preference being decidedly to lie and vegetate in their dingy, smoky habitations during the cold weather, waiting for the advent of spring before renewing their out-of-door exercises.

These exercises, rowing and fishing principally, are only partial, benefiting merely the muscles of the upper portion of the body. Owing to this fact, it is not uncommon to see men among them powerful and robust about the chest and arms, while their lower limbs are comparatively so small and puny as to convey the impression of deformity."